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I. *Some further Conſiderations on the* Breſlaw *Bills of Mortality. By the ſame Hand*, &c.

SIR,

WHat I gave you in my former Diſcourſe on theſe Bills, was chiefly deſigned for the Computation of the Values of Annuities on Lives, wherein I believe I have performed what the ſhort Period of my Obſervations would permit, in relation to exactneſs, but at the ſame time do earneſtly deſire, that their Learned Author Dr. *Newman* of *Breſlaw* would pleaſe to continue them after the ſame manner for yet ſome years further, that ſo the caſual Irregularities and apparent Diſcordance in the Table, *p.* 599. may by a certain number of Chances be rectified and aſcertain'd.

Were this *Calculus* founded on the Experience of a very great number of Years, it would be very well worth the while to think of Methods for facilitating the Computation of the Value of two, three, or more Lives; which as propoſed in my former, ſeems (as I am inform'd) a Work of too much Difficulty for the ordinary Arithmetician to undertake. I have ſought, if it were poſſible, to find a Theorem that might be more conciſe than the Rules there laid down, but in vain; for all that can be done to expedite it, is by Tables of Logarithms ready computed, to exhibit the *Rationes* of *N* to *T* in each ſingle Life, for every third, fourth or fifth Year of Age, as occaſion ſhall require; and theſe Logarithms being added to the Logarithms of the preſent Value of Money payable after ſo many Years, will give a Series of Numbers, the Sum of which will ſhew the Value of the Annuity ſought. However for each Number of this Series two Logarithms for a ſingle Life, three for two Lives, and four for three Lives, muſt neceſſarily be

be added together. If you think the matter, under the uncertainties I have mentioned, to deſerve it, I ſhall ſhortly give you ſuch a Table of Logarithms as I ſpeak of, and an Example or two of the uſe thereof: But by Vulgar Arithmetick the labour of theſe Numbers were immenſe; and nothing will more recommend the uſeful Invention of Logarithms to all Lovers of Numbers, than the advantage of Diſpatch in this and ſuch like Computations.

Beſides the uſes mentioned in my former, it may perhaps not be an unacceptable thing to infer from the ſame Tables, how unjuſtly we repine at the ſhortneſs of our Lives, and think our ſelves wronged if we attain not Old Age; whereas it appears hereby, that the one half of thoſe that are born are dead in Seventeen years time, 1238 being in that time reduced to 616. So that inſtead of murmuring at what we call an untimely Death, we ought with Patience and unconcern to ſubmit to that Diſſolution which is the neceſſary Condition of our periſhable Materials, and of our nice and frail Structure and Compoſition: And to account it as a Bleſſing that we have ſurvived, perhaps by many Years, that Period of Life, whereat the one half of the whole Race of Mankind does not arrive.

A ſecond Obſervation I make upon the ſaid Table, is that the Growth and Encreaſe of Mankind is not ſo much ſtinted by any thing in the Nature of the *Species*, as it is from the cautious difficulty moſt People make to adventure on the ſtate of *Marriage*, from the proſpect of the Trouble and Charge of providing for a Family. Nor are the poorer ſort of People herein to be blamed, ſince their difficulty of ſubſiſting is occaſion'd by the unequal Diſtribution of Poſſeſſions, all being neceſſarily fed from the Earth, of which yet ſo few are Maſters. So that beſides themſelves and Families, they are yet to work for thoſe who own the Ground that feeds them: And of

ſuch

ſuch does by very much the greater part of Mankind conſiſt; otherwiſe it is plain, that there might well be four times as many Births as we now find. For by computation from the Table, I find that there are nearly 15000 Perſons above 16 and under 45, of which at leaſt 7000 are Women capable to bear Children. Of theſe notwithſtanding there are but 1238 born yearly, which is but little more than a ſixth part: So that about one in ſix of theſe Women do breed yearly; whereas were they all married, it would not appear ſtrange or unlikely, that four of ſix ſhould bring a Child every year. The Political Conſequences hereof I ſhall not inſiſt on, only the Strength and Glory of a King being in the multitude of his Subjects, I ſhall only hint, that above all things, Celibacy ought to be diſcouraged, as, by extraordinary Taxing and Military Service: And thoſe who have numerous Families of Children to be countenanced and encouraged by ſuch Laws as the *Jus trium Liberorum* among the *Romans*. But eſpecially, by an effectual Care to provide for the Subſiſtence of the Poor, by finding them Employments, whereby they may earn their Bread, without being chargeable to the Publick.

II. *What*